Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A system for manipulation of ~~a small~~an object, the system comprising:

a carrier to transport the ~~small~~ object;

a substrate to receive the ~~small~~ object; and

a fluid droplet which couples the ~~small~~ object detachably to at least one of the carrier and the substrate, wherein the fluid droplet has surface tension sufficient to carry the object, wherein the at least one of the carrier and the substrate is provided with ~~at least one~~an electrode having a shape selected to influence an orientation of the ~~small~~ object with respect to the at least one of the carrier and the substrate, wherein the electrode is shaped so that it corresponds with the shape of the object.

2. (Currently amended) The system for manipulation of ~~a small~~the object as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~a carrying~~the fluid droplet is disposed on the carrier.

3. (Currently amended) The system for manipulation of ~~a small~~the object as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~a target~~the fluid droplet is

disposed on the substrate.

4. (Currently amended) The system for manipulation of ~~a small~~the object as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~target~~ fluid droplet is placed on the substrate in predetermined positions or in a predetermined pattern.

5. (Currently amended) The system for manipulation of ~~a small~~the object as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ratio of size of the fluid ~~droplets~~ droplet to the size of the ~~objects~~ object is in the range 1/10 to 1/3.

6. (Currently amended) The system for manipulation of ~~a small~~the object as claimed in claim 1, wherein the substrate is provided with ~~one or several electrodes~~the electrode.

7. (Currently amended) The system for manipulation of ~~small objects~~the object as claimed in claim 4, wherein the substrate electrodes have a shape which corresponds to a shape of the ~~small objects~~object.

8-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) The system for manipulation of ~~a small~~the object as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrode is one of a

plurality of electrodes and wherein the carrier and the substrate is provided with the fluid droplet and ~~the at least one electrode~~one of the plurality of electrodes.

13. (Currently amended) The system for manipulation of ~~a small~~the object as claimed in claim 12, wherein system is configured to ~~a~~ transfer the ~~small~~ object between the carrier and the substrate by activating the substrate electrode when the ~~small~~ object contacts the fluid droplet on the substrate and subsequently deactivating the carrier electrode.

14. (Currently amended) The system for manipulation of a ~~small~~ object as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier comprises a first carrier portion and a second carrier portion joined by a flexible joint and wherein the system is configured to move the ~~small~~ object from the first carrier portion to the second carrier portion through the flexible joint.

15. (Currently amended) The system for manipulation of ~~a small~~the object as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fluid droplet is one of a plurality of fluid droplets which couples a corresponding plurality of ~~small~~ objects detachably to the carrier, the system comprising a detector that is configured to distinguish fluid droplets carrying one of the plurality of ~~small~~ objects from fluid droplets that are not carrying one of the plurality of ~~small~~ objects.

16. (Currently amended) The system for manipulation of ~~a small~~the object as claimed in claim 15, comprising a drain line, wherein the system is configured for draining the fluid droplets that are not carrying one of the plurality of objects into the drain line based on a signal from the detector.

17. (New) The system for manipulation of the object as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fluid droplet has surface tension sufficient to lift the object.

18. (New) A system for manipulation of an object, the system comprising:

a carrier to transport the object;

a substrate to receive the object; and

a fluid droplet which couples the object detachably to at least one of the carrier and the substrate, wherein the fluid droplet has surface tension sufficient to carry the object, wherein the ratio of size of the fluid droplet to the size of the object is in the range 1/10 to 1/3.

19. (New) The system for manipulation of the object as claimed in claim 18, wherein the fluid droplet is one of a plurality of fluid droplets which couples a corresponding plurality of objects detachably.

20. (New) A system for manipulation of an object, the system comprising:

a carrier to transport the object;

a substrate to receive the object; and

a fluid droplet which couples the object detachably to at least one of the carrier and the substrate, wherein the fluid droplet has surface tension sufficient to carry the object, wherein the carrier comprises a first carrier portion and a second carrier portion joined by a flexible joint and wherein the system is configured to move the object from the first carrier portion to the second carrier portion through the flexible joint.

21. (New) A system for manipulation of an object, the system comprising:

a carrier to transport the object;

a substrate to receive the object;

a fluid droplet which couples the object detachably to at least one of the carrier and the substrate, wherein the fluid droplet has surface tension sufficient to carry the object, wherein the fluid droplet is one of a plurality of fluid droplets which couples a corresponding plurality of objects detachably to the carrier; and

a detector that is configured to distinguish fluid droplets carrying one of the plurality of objects from fluid droplets that

are not carrying one of the plurality of objects.

22. (New) The system for manipulation of the object as claimed in claim 21, comprising a drain line, wherein the system is configured for draining the fluid droplets that are not carrying one of the plurality of objects into the drain line based on a signal from the detector.